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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KURITA et al.
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Examiner: I. Ghali
Art Unit: 1615

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 27th day of January 2003.

John R. Van Amsterdam

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on September 26, 2002.

Remarks

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over US patent 4,740,374 or US patent 5,866,157, individually or combined with US patent 5,271,946. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.